"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE

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An Independent Religious Weekly, Standing for the Verbal Inspiration of the Bible, the Deity of Christ, His Blood Atonement, Salvation by Faith, New Testament Soul Winning and the Premillennial Return of Christ. Opposes Sin, Modernism, and Denominational Overlordship

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How to Have Full Assurance in Christ

Dear Mrs. D—:

Your letter of August 21 should have been answered before now. Please forgive the unavoidable delay. I was very clearly touched by your state and believe that I can help you because I, too, went through a period of three years not knowing whether I was saved or lost, in fact the fault was that I depended on feeling and emotion and so had no assurance of salvation. Later I learned what God had promised in His Word, accepted it at face value, and then, before long, I had entered into real joy in the Lord.

I am sending you my booklet, *What Must I Do To Be Saved?* You may have read it, but I urge you to read it again. I do not think you need it in order to be saved, but that it will help clear up some matters in your mind.

I take it that you once knew yourself a sinner and trusted Christ as your Saviour. It doesn't matter whether you know when it happened or not. In a large class of nearly a hundred earnest Christian workers, I learned that one out of five could not tell when they were converted, yet, they knew they were depending upon Christ for mercy and that He lived in their hearts. I remember the day when I trusted Christ as my Saviour and the first time I went forward to claim Him, but I do not remember whether it was summer or winter or whether I was eight years old or nine. I remember nothing about how I felt nor of what took place in my heart. I made a little note of it at the time. My father did not think I was saved, and for three years or more I never thought I was saved. Later when I had prayed and prayed to be saved, and sought God long, begging for salvation and assurance of salvation, I suddenly thought this:

"It is a strange thing that I want to be saved so badly and God won't hear me. If Jesus died for me and loves me like the Bible says, then surely He wants to forgive me. He promised everlasting life to those who trusted Him, and I have done all I know to do, so I am going to bed and not worry about it any more."

I had no special joy or emotion; I just counted the matter settled, but as I went about my daily life, I began to feel a joy that I had turned everything over to Christ

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At the Place of the Sea

"By the greatness of Thine arm they shall be still . . . till Thy people pass over, O Lord" (Exo. 15:16).

Have you come to the Red Sea place in your life,
Where, in spite of all you can do,
There is no way out, there is no way back,
There is no other way but — through?

Then wait on the Lord with a trust serene
Till the night of your fear is gone;
He will send the wind, He will heap the floods,
When He says to your soul, "Go on."

And His hand will lead you through — clear through —
Ere the watery walls roll down,
No foe can reach you, no wave can touch,
No mightiest sea can drown:

The tossing billows may rear their crests,
Their foam at your feet may break,
But over their bed you shall walk dry shod
In the path that your Lord will make.

In the morning watch, 'neath the lifting cloud,
You shall see but the Lord alone,
When He leads you on from the place of the sea
To a land that you have not known;

And your fears shall pass as your foes have passed,
You shall be no more afraid;
You shall sing His praise in a better place,
A place that His hand has made. — *Selected.*

YOUTH'S REVIVAL

November 12-19 at Fundamentalist Baptist Church, Dallas

By Viola Walden and Sam Ray

It is our great privilege to have Dr. Robert J. Wells, Pastor of Burton Avenue Baptist Church in Waterloo, Iowa, with us during the absence of our pastor, Dr. John R. Rice. The young people of the Fundamentalist Baptist Church have agreed to cooperate in a great Youth's rally, and we are expecting great blessing from the Lord. The young people are planning the publicity, the music, will act as ushers, raise the money, get delegations from various churches, have prayer meetings and do personal work. Of course older people are invited to attend. Everyone will be welcome, and we trust that many will be saved.

Last Sunday night the delegation committee visited other churches and invited them to attend the Youth's Revival. We hope every night to have a large delegation from different churches. They will be recognized. We expect to have special singers present with us each night.

Dr. Wells will have charge of all the services.

Sunday morning he will preach on the radio at 7:30, then teach the Sunday School lesson to a large class of adults. At 11:00 his message will be *Storm the Fort*, a message presenting a challenge to Christians to do the work that God has intended for them to do and to carry the responsibility that is

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Dr. Robert J. Wells, Pastor of Burton Avenue Baptist Church, Waterloo, Iowa, who will conduct a young people's revival at Fundamentalist Baptist Church, 201 E. Tenth Street, November 12-19.

New Building to Open, God Willing, December 10th

Today, Saturday, the last brick was laid on the new Sunday School building, including an auditorium for use at present. The roof has already been started. It is our expectation that by the mercy of God the building can be completed and ready for occupancy by December 10th. God has prospered the work. It has gone well under the direction of Brother H. D. Stark, foreman, and Brother M. D. Hoover, brick foreman. The building took all the brick salvaged from the big tabernacle, with Sunday School section, and then we had to buy extra face brick and common brick.

Brother Sam Morris has agreed to come, if possible, for the opening Sunday. He will record messages for the *Voice of Temperance* on radio XERA, and will have those broadcasts done by transcriptions while he comes to help us in a great time of rejoicing in our new building.

Brethren from Sherman, Greenville, and elsewhere want to join us in our celebration, so God willing, we expect to have three days of special program. From far and near the people will come, we believe, to help us in worshipping God, studying the Bible, winning souls, and in praise. Speakers will probably be Rev. Sam Morris, of Del Rio, Texas; Rev. W. O. Majors of Greenville; Rev. John V. Ray of Sherman; Rev. Richard Ausburn of Dallas, and others. Definite and detailed announcements will be made a little later. We hope that friends from far and near will come to spend three days with us, to rejoice in our new building and to help us win souls. Following that, evangelistic services may continue at night.

"Bitter Words and Wicked Hearts"

(Sunday night, October 29, 1939, sermon of Dr. John R. Rice as preached in Fundamentalist Baptist Tabernacle, Dallas. Stenographically reported.)

PRAYER: Our Heavenly Father, wilt Thou open our hearts as we turn to Thy Word. Create in us a clean heart. Let us say like David said in the Fifty-first Psalm, "Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean." I pray dear Lord you will purge me tonight without and within, and Lord if tomorrow it needs to be done again, well and good. We pray tonight that Thou will have Thy way in our hearts as we come to this place of prayer where Thou hast blessed many times before. We pray hearts may be blessed and souls may be saved. We pray, dear Lord, speak through this unworthy preacher tonight that some man, some woman, some young person, may be saved. Tonight may people come out boldly and claim Thee. We pray people may seek and find the blessing in the heart that may express itself outwardly in their words. Tonight speak to our hearts, revive us for Jesus Christ, and let the gospel bear fruit and God be honored and the Holy Spirit have free course that people may go home blessed. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

You will pray for me while I preach, won't you? I feel that you will. Please pray also for these girls who take down this message. They have taken three messages today; one this morning on the radio, one at 11:00, and now this one, and it is a great strain on them.

Turn to Matthew, chapter 12, and there I will read a few verses, beginning with verse 33 and reading through verse 37. These five verses I call to your attention tonight in this chapter, the 12th chapter of Matthew.

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

"34. O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

"35. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.

"36. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

"37. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned."

There are four things about this passage I call to your attention. *First*, there is a tree and there is fruit, and God is more interested in trees than He is in the fruit. *Second*, there is this fact: Our hearts are inherently wicked, so much so that by nature we are snakes, poisonous snakes, with the taint of sin and Satan in us, and no man can ever see God without a new heart, without being made a new creature. *Third*, the heart expresses itself best and most clearly in our words. Our mouth, out of a good heart, brings forth good words, and out of an evil heart, brings forth evil words. The *fourth* and last point is: Men are justified by their words and by their words they are condemned. God is going to bring every man to judgment for every word, every idle, critical, slanderous, cursing word — I say God is going to bring men to judgment. So with that in mind I call your attention to verse 33:

"Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit."

There is much said in the Bible about fruit, and there ought to be. Jesus said, "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7). I think seven times in six verses in that passage it tells us how to bear fruit. We are much concerned about bearing fruit. In fact, we are more concerned about living a good life than we are about having a good heart, but God is not.

Dr. Houghton, President of Moody Bible Institute, said a very striking thing — Miss Fairy Shappard mentioned it to me in a letter. Dr. Houghton said, "The main business of Moody Bible Institute is not to turn out good Christian workers, but the main business is to turn out good Christians, and let God make the workers." If you turn out the right kind of a Christian, he is going to be a good worker. God is more interested in trees than He is in fruit.

All over the country we find men trying to produce good works. One may think if he is going to be saved he must be in church every Sunday morning, take the Lord's Supper, give a tithe of his income, be baptized, and stay straight. It is all do, do, do, do, do! Many times when I ask a man if he is a Christian he thinks I mean is he living right and he says, "I am trying the best I can." A colored woman told me yesterday, "I am doing the best I can to be a Christian." She was thinking about the fruit and not about the tree. God is interested in the tree. The Scripture says, "Either make the thee good and the fruit good or else make the tree corrupt and the fruit corrupt."

All over the country pastors are concerned about the fruit bearing of their people. And I am concerned about it, and I ought to be. If you think I am hard, then remember this. The Bible commands, "obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls as they that must give an account" (Heb. 13:17). I must give an account to God for you. I take this to heart about having the right kind of Christians that win souls and give freely and walk uprightly. Now then, suppose I say I will try to put the pressure on you to get you to give up picture shows and bridge parties and cigarettes and try to

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An Apology

Last week *The Sword of the Lord* mentioned the name of the editor on the front page too many times. No one else has mentioned it, but the editor felt conscience-stricken that his name should be put in headlines so often, and begs the forbearance of the readers.

Many, many letters indicate that you who read *The Sword of the Lord* are concerned about the engagements and the ministry of the editor. Many letters ask me where I am going and about results of revivals. Such interest seems to justify announcements and brief reports about such services.

"Bitter Words and Wicked Hearts"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

get you to tithe, try to enlist you to go down to the jail services and park services and on Monday night to go to the hospital to win souls. I want you to do all those things. Those fruits are pleasing to God. But most I want you to get dying souls on your heart. With a heart really loving, broken for sinners, the outward fruit will come.

I say what God is concerned about really isn't for people to tithe. What God wants is a heart that will trust God, a heart that says, "God will do what He said. He will take care of me. God is good to me." And with grateful heart overflowing with praise, you say, "I am just bound to give!"

That is good. You need to work on the heart, Brother Greer. God says in His Word, "Keep thy *heart* with all diligence: for out of it are the issues of life" (Prov. 4: 23). God says to watch your heart.

We watch our tongues. You say, "Boy, I have a time keeping my tongue straight." I know why. It is because your heart isn't straight. You cannot put dirty water in the water mains and by watching the faucets expect good water to come out. You must go back and purify the source of the water. You take an old scrub oak tree and you cannot grow Elberta peaches on it. You have to have the right kind of tree to produce Elberta peaches. And you cannot turn out real soul winning Christians unless you have Christians with compassionate hearts, with part of the burden the Lord Jesus has for sinners, knowing that Hell, Heaven, and eternity alone can tell the value of a soul. Until you come to that point, you are not going to be a soul winner. I can argue with you, I can teach you how, I can get study courses for you, and send you plans on occasions, and put you to teaching a Sunday School class, but that will not do it.

I remember when I was in a revival meeting with Brother Harvey Springer in 1937. When I got there, everything was all set.

Brother Springer said, "John, I know how you like it. I don't do it that way, but we fixed it up like you will like it. At every four seats we have a personal worker placed, ready to go when the invitation is given."

He expected to get results.

I said, "God bless you, Harvey. O but first of all we have to get hold of the hearts. You don't make a soul winner out of a man with a cold heart."

I tell you now, what God wants is a tree, then He will get the right kind of fruit. What God wants is the heart that is right, that puts God first. Thank God for these words: "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit. You are not going to have good fruit from a bad tree.

I tell you why a lot of you people don't tithe. Your heart is set on money. The love of money, the love of riches, the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches make it so you have trouble tithing. You made up your mind you would, you vowed you would, you tried it for a time. You thought likely you could do it, but there is something in your heart that is not right, the love for money, an evil, wicked thing that needs to be taken from you. You need for God to change it. You need for God to make you a liberal Christian *in your heart.*

A man came to Dr. J. B. Gambrell many years ago and said, "I tell you, when I give I just can't help it, but I begrudge it. I give, but it hurts me. What ought I do about it?" He thought Dr. Gambrell would say, "I wouldn't give, then," but Dr. Gambrell said, "I would quit grudging." What God wants you to do is to fix the grudging part instead of fixing the giving part. That widow who gave two mites, gave more than all the others, Jesus said, because she gave all she had to God. What God wants is a heart that is willing to give all. And Jesus stood there and rejoiced and praised God because she put in all she had, because she trusted God and she had faith and love and surrender. If we have that kind of giving, it is only an incident whether we have rich folks in our churches. What God wants is the heart, the tree. We are concerned about the fruit, but God wants the tree.

The Pharisees tried to produce the fruit. They tithed, they prayed in public, they went to church and did all the outside things. They were a fine bunch. Fine fruit, but they had wicked trees, and Jesus said to them, "Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit." This Scripture says you can't have one without the other, and God wants the heart fixed. Oh, if we watch our hearts!

I hope in this church more and more we will be concerned about being good Christians. For my part I have thought a good deal about this. I have turned somewhat to the outside about soul winning. I don't win as many souls in Dallas as I used to. There are difficulties here: we don't have concern about it, and going after them. I win more souls outside of Dallas than in Dallas. I made up my mind I am going to win them, win them where I can win them. That is what God called me to do and I am going to do it.

Listen, I will tell you what I want and have made up my mind to it. I am not going to preach all the time just to have outward results with great groups of people coming down the aisles every time I preach. I want visible results, but I want to be sure first that there are invisible results. We can sin in looking for numbers more than anything else. We need a revival, but we need it inside to make us good. We need an earthquake inside our hearts so we can get down and have an old time weeping, old time praying, and an old time transforming of lives. Then there will be plenty of people coming down the aisles.

Oh, yes, what God is most concerned about is the heart. He wants the heart kind of religion, the tree made right, regeneration in the soul of a sinner, and God wants surely a refiring, a reinvigorating, a resanctifying of hearts of the saved people. With us we think about the fruit. God wants fruit but God wants a good tree to bring forth fruit.

And right hard on the heels of that truth comes the matter of regeneration. "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

My friends, I promised God I will preach it again and again, that you must be born again. I need to stress to church members to make sure they are saved.

You may say tonight, "Brother Rice, I am as good as the church members. I go to church as much, pray as much; I am good to my neighbors; I don't get drunk; I don't curse; I am a pretty good guy."

That may be true, but I will tell you what you are if you are not a born again Christian. You are a generation of snakes, a generation of vipers. That is what God says. The viper is a very deadly kind of snake.

God says if you are not born again you are a poisonous snake. What does a snake mean spiritually? Sin first showed itself to the human race in the form of a serpent. When Adam and Eve were in the Garden of Eden, Satan came in the form of a snake. The Bible speaks in Revelation 12: 9 and Revelation 20:2 of "that old serpent called the devil and Satan."

When Jesus was to be pictured in the Old Testament bearing all our sins, God used a snake. You remember the fiery snakes came in among Israel and much people of Israel died. The people said to Moses, "What are we going to do?" Moses prayed, and God said, "Make a snake out of brass and put it on a pole, and whoever looks at the snake will be healed." That snake pictures Jesus bearing my sins and yours. "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him" (II Cor. 5:21). I say that picture is showing Christ bearing our sins. Sin is pictured by a snake.

An now the Lord says to the Pharisees in our text, "The trouble with you is that you have the Devil in you. You are a child of the Devil. The trouble with you is that you are a generation of vipers." That is what is wrong with men.

You say, "What is wrong with men is ignorance."

No! No! What is wrong is a rotten heart.

You say, "They do not have proper organization," or "They do not have the right kind of an education."

I say that is not what is wrong. What is wrong about war in Europe and communism in this country and divorce and modernism and crime and unrest? I tell you what is back of it is *sin.* It is wicked *hearts,* the devil in the *hearts* of people. Jesus said, "You are a generation of vipers." How can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the *heart* the mouth speaketh."

The matter of speech is the closest revelation of the heart. Your mouth is like a mirror which shows the heart. One can't see it otherwise. I tell you now, my friends, what is wrong with your speech is that you have a poor rotten heart inside. May God help you to see it tonight. If you are not born again, if you do not have God's grace in your heart, then you are not saved.

I can never get over the thing, someway the marvel of it, the freshness, the sweetness, the way God makes a real change in a sinner's heart. I think of that Catholic man who came and kneeled at my bedside when I was sick in bed with the "flu" three years ago this November. He knelt down after I showed him how to be saved, and I put my hands on his head and prayed, and he got up, and sat down on the bed and said, "You know, I feel different. Isn't that strange? I have such peace in my heart! I never had this before. Isn't this wonderful?"

After a while he said again, "Listen, isn't this wonderful? Isn't this strange?"

I told him, No, it wasn't strange. I have seen so many other people have the same thing when they put their trust in Jesus.

I remember a man named Clyde Barrow (not the Dallas Clyde Barrow, but a West Texas man). He was six feet, five inches high, weighed 235 pounds. He was saved but before he was saved he drank heavily. He drank up his farm which he had inherited, and lost it finally. He had a very beautiful step-daughter that he greatly loved. He was so fond of her, and yet he drank. One day he let his crony get in on his secret. He had a barrel of wine, or a half-barrel of wine. When he went to the field he always took a jug full. So this crony of his was going along with him, and this Clyde Barrow said to him, "Come on with me and I will give you a drink out of my jug."

So he did and they both drank. This friend did not drink as much as Clyde, so Clyde told him where the half-barrel of wine was that was back at the house. This crony who didn't drink quite as much excused himself, thanked Clyde Barrow, and went on his way. But he went back by the haystack where this wine was and stole nearly all of it. When Clyde Barrow got home that night, he made his daily rounds. He would always turn out the horses and would then go to the haystack. When he would go to milk the cows, he would go down by the haystack. But when he drank, it was almost all gone!

He said, "Somebody has been in my wine and I know what it was. That son-of-a-gun!" So he got in his car and started out to find this man, and he found him out in the street.

Clyde said, "You so-and-so, you got in my wine," and he biffed him one. He knocked him out in the street, and as soon as the fellow could get back on his feet, he would knock him down again, and finally he knocked him out.

His brain began to clear. He said, "I have played the fool a lot of times, but I was never in a street brawl before. What will Maggie think?" (That was his step-daughter). "What in the world will Maggie think, and what will my wife think? I have played the fool plenty of times. I have wasted a farm and lost it in drink, but I never was in a common street fight over being drunk before." He went home, and all the way home he said the wheels of his car said, "You have played the fool, you have played the fool." He was ashamed to face his wife. He went down to the haystack and got what was left of that half-barrel of wine and took a cultivator axle and broke in the head of it, and rolled it off down the hill. He went around mourning two or three days. Finally I met him at a blacksmith shop. He was sick. I tried to get him to my house for dinner, but he wouldn't come. He was afraid of my wife. Finally he went with me out in the field and out there he trusted the Lord and was wonderfully saved. I won't tell you all the details about it. Really there were some comical things.

But Clyde Barrow would come to my house between Sunday and Wednesday. He couldn't wait for Wednesday night. He would wake me up before he went to work in the morning about 6:30. He would say, "Brother Rice, I have been reading my Bible and I found something I couldn't understand, so I decided I would come and ask my pastor." He couldn't wait for Wednesday night, if he found a verse he couldn't understand. He was so hungry for the Word of God. With great joy he began to win souls to Christ. One day he brought his own kid brother down the aisle. The Lord just transformed him.

One day he said, "Preacher, something has sure happened to me! Do you remember how I used to fight? I would just fight at the drop of a hat! I am a big old fellow, and everybody was afraid of me. I went around looking for trouble all the time. I would get mad at anything. Well, I went down town and was talking to some guy about the Lord, and this man cursed me to my face." And he said, "You know, Brother Rice, I just stood there and cried and laughed at him. I said, 'I am not afraid of you. You know I could break you in two with my two hands. And you know I would have done it, too, if I hadn't been saved. I don't hate you; I am not mad at you. I am just going to pray for you.' Something sure has happened to me!"

"God bless you," I said, "something *has* happened to you!"

And what you need tonight is for *something to happen to you inside.* God does not want so much tying some fruit on outside the tree. God wants a different tree. Then it will bring forth a different fruit. I tell you tonight, poor lost man, what you need is a new heart. What you need is that God will make your wicked heart right, that God will make you, a snake, into a child of God. John the Baptist said, "God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham." God wants to make your poor vile heart clean, and God will and God can.

I remember when I talked to a Jewish girl in Chicago who was a bootlegging woman, one of seven women rum-runners. There are many men but only seven women known to the federal forces, and she was one of them. She lived a wicked life and she was heart broken. One day I preached and announced that I was going to preach a certain Friday night on "Whiskey Prescribing Doctors and Druggists, Malt-Selling Grocers, and Bootlegging Skunks." I laid it on. I rubbed people's hair the wrong way. That night when I gave the invitation she held her hand for prayer, but when the invitation came, she got up and left. I didn't know what was the matter. She was going to Detroit, across 300 miles into Canada to get another carload of booze. All those 300 miles she kept saying to herself, "Yes, that is right. You are nothing but a bootlegging skunk." She didn't heart that sermon. She just heard me announce that I would preach it on another night. I gave enough preview that she got that much. She said, "That is right, you are nothing but a lousy bootlegging skunk. You have no friends but those you bought or bribed. You have to work to get by the officers of the law. You are a law-breaker. All you are is a bootlegging skunk" (She was talking to herself). She went on across the bridge and came back, and all the way back to Chicago the wheels kept saying, "Bootlegging skunk! Bootlegging skunk." She came back on Sunday night to hear me preach. She came after the service had already dismissed and said, "There is no chance for a woman like me." I did all I could to win her to Christ, but I couldn't do it. She was cut to the heart with the Scripture, was convicted of her sin, but yet she didn't see any way out of the dirty business and how she could live for God. I was at the end of my rope. Finally there came a woman as I talked to the dear girl nearly an hour. She stood by the high platform (in Paul Rader's tabernacle in 1932) — finally there came a woman and said, "You think you can't be a Christian? Let me tell you what I was." She said, "I was the madam that ran a house of prostitutes down here on such a corner (and she gave the address). I was in that awful business for twelve years. I am not glad of it. I am ashamed of it, but I want to tell you what God can do for sinners." And she stood there and unfolded that story, weeping as she told it how God had saved her, a poor, fallen woman who ran a house of ill fame, and God had saved her and made her happy and

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Editor In Chicago

Perhaps the Devil didn't want me to come to Chicago. After planning to leave Dallas at 12:30 by plane, Sunday, for Memphis, St. Louis, and Chicago, and to arrive in Chicago at 7:30 p.m., so I could be with my dear people for Sunday morning, I was unable to get plane reservations. The Memphis plane for Sunday afternoon was already filled Saturday morning. I hurriedly prepared to leave Saturday afternoon by train. Going to the train the knee-action on a front wheel of my car broke down. One helper hurried to get another car and take me to the train. When the Katy train pulled out of the station, a coupling between cars pulled loose, the steam line pulled in two, and it took half an hour to repair it. After we left St. Louis on the Alton, a fast train with two engines, we ran over a cow and delayed that train a bit. But fortunately the train came out better than the cow did, and we got to Chicago on time. Now I will have to make friends with my people at Dallas for missing Sunday morning; but they had a good preacher, and, I am sure, were blessed and happy.

The noon-day services Monday started with a bang. A splendid crowd nearly filled the lower floor of the big Grand Opera House. The Spirit moved upon the people and four came forward to claim Christ openly. Today (Tuesday) one woman came forward, and there was a good crowd.

I have spoken twice in Moody Bible Institute and twice in the series of rallies for the Pacific Garden Mission. The week's rallies for the Pacific Garden Mission end Sunday afternoon in Moody Church. Sunday night I begin a two weeks' revival in Marquette Manor Baptist Church. We look forward to a happy time and many blessings. The noon-day services will continue five times a week for three weeks under the auspices of the Chicago Christian Business Men's Committee, broadcasting daily from 12:00 to 1:00 on WJJD. We expect to give out thousands of printed gospel messages, and we earnestly covet the prayers of every reader.

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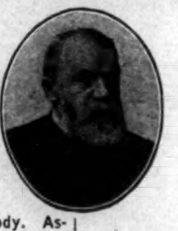

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A Reader Asks If Matthew 27:52, 53 Depicts A Resurrection of the Dead, And What the Holy City Refers To

Dear Brother F—:

You asked me to explain Matthew 27:52, 53, and said, "Was this a resurrection of the dead; if not, what was it? Does the Holy City mean the city of God or Jerusalem?"

The verses you refer to are as follows:

> "And the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints which slept arose."
>
> "And came out of the graves after his resurrection, and went into the holy city, and appeared unto many."

Immediately, after Christ died on the cross, the graves seemed to have been opened, perhaps, by the earthquake. Then when Jesus arose from the dead, these came out of their graves and appeared to many. The Holy City here was Jerusalem.

I do not think we would say these were resurrected. They were brought out of the graves alive, but it seems probable that they did not have glorified bodies. I believe that they came out of the graves and appeared to some people in Jerusalem, as witness that Christ had arisen from the dead, and then they probably went back to their graves. If not, we would suppose that they would die again, as Lazarus did. I do not know of any clear statement anywhere in the Bible that says what became of these who came out of the graves, but I infer that all the Christian dead await the rapture when Jesus comes to receive His saints. We have records of a number of people in the Bible who were raised from the dead, but we have no record that any took his resurrected body after that to Heaven. Eventually, all died again. First Corinthians 15:23 indicates that Christ's resurrection was the only true resurrection that would take place until the resurrection of all the redeemed, who are dead, which will take place at His coming.

Since the Scripture speaks of Christ as the first fruits of the resurrection, and the "first begotten of the dead" (Rev. 1:5), the others who were raised from the dead temporarily, were not resurrected in the same sense.

I thank you for your letter, and I am glad you are interested in the Word of God. Will you write me again, and pray for *The Sword of the Lord?*

In the Saviour's name,
Yours,
John R. Rice

How To Have Full Assurance In Christ

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and it was all right. When I joined the church, I could not tell when I was saved and give an intelligent testimony. Later I began to read my Bible and found such promises as John 5:24: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life;" John 3:16, John 1:12, John 3:18, John 3:36, John 6:47, Acts 16:31, Acts 13:39, all of which confirm this blessed trust. Then I began to look back to the time when I first began to trust the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sin and I found it was when I, as a little boy, walked to the front to claim Him as my Saviour, in the First Baptist Church at Gainesville, Texas. But it does not matter when it happened, nor matter when I *began* to trust Him, just so I trust Him now. If the apostle Paul had suffered from amnesia, or loss of memory, so he could not remember the marvelous experience on the road to Damascus, it would not have altered his salvation a particle, nor would he have needed to ask for assurance. One who has trusted and now is trusting in Christ is saved, no matter when that trust began.

What you need to do then is quit asking God for assurance, quit asking for Him to reveal Himself, and believe His Word. I believe that after you have wholly settled the matter, that you will trust in Christ, depending absolutely on his word, that He has forgiven all who trusted Him, then it may be proper to ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit and keep you "in sweet communion" with Him through the spirit. But as long as you confuse assurance with salvation, you dishonor God by your unbelief. The assurance of salvation comes from the word of God. Then, when you are definitely committed to believe what God has said and to claim what He promised, God will doubtless give your soul assurance by the Holy Spirit.

It is proper to read the Word of God and meditate therein, but what you need to do is quietly rest in the promises of God. Believe what God has said, and thank Him for saving you, then the Holy Spirit will lead you in holy fellowship and sweeter joy as a Christian. I enclose my booklet, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" Under separate cover, I am also sending you a little booklet that has helped multitudes. It is called, "What Class Are You Traveling?" or instead is sometimes given the name, "Safety, Certainty, and Enjoyment." It is by an English evangelist, and I hope you will find great blessing in it. Feel free to write me again, and I will help you all I can.

Hoping to hear soon that you have found sweet belief on this matter, I am,

Your Brother in Christ,
John R. Rice

Note: We will be glad to send absolutely free to anyone, the tract, "What Class Are You Traveling?" by an English evangelist, as long as the supply lasts.

"Bitter Words and Wicked Hearts"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

clean and gave her a good husband and a happy family and made a soul winner and a respected Christian woman of her. And then she said, "If God can do that for me, He can do it for you, too." Her word did what I couldn't do, and that Jewish girl, that woman rum-runner trusted Christ and went back and reported to the chief that worked over her that she was through with that business. She said, "I am not going to sell it. I am done with it."

I tell you, my friends, what God wants is not just to get a man to start living a different life, but He wants to give him a new heart that will sow a different life.

I tell you, I am afraid about a lot of people that have such awful trouble trying to come out, trying to get in the church, and give their testimony. I am afraid about a lot of people. The trouble is they are working on the fruit end when what they need is a new tree that God can make right and make it so it can bear good fruit.

Jesus said, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things?" Oh, unsaved men, you are a bunch of snakes. That is what you are. A man with a wicked heart is a poisonous snake. The poison of Satan is in your veins. You need a new heart. You need God to make you into a new man so that old things will pass away and all things will become new, and God will help you to love what you hate and hate what you now love. God will give you a new heart.

I don't know who is here unsaved, but let me give you this good news. God is in the business of making sad hearts happy. God is in the business of making failures into successes. God is in the business of making harlot women pure! God is in the business of making drunkards sober! God is in the business of making infidels into believers. God is in the business of taking Hell-bound sinners and making them fit for Heaven. God can make a new tree in your heart so you can bear new fruit. What people need is to be born again.

You may be a Pharisee like Nicodemus, but you need to be born again. You may be a moral woman, you may live a good life, but I don't care, you are as rotten as Hell inside and you need to be born again. Maybe on the other hand you have hopelessly gone in sin and feel no peace. What you need is the grace of God to fix things inside.

That is true not only about salvation, but on the matter of Christian living. There are people here tonight who can go back and put their finger on the spot when they trusted Jesus Christ and got their sins all forgiven.

"Happy day that fixed my choice
On Thee, my Saviour and my God.
Well may this glowing heart rejoice
And tells its raptures all abroad."

You can remember that time. I am talking to people who would say you are not Christians, who have forgotten they were purged from their sins as Peter tells us in the Bible. But if I get them to go back and talk about the time and how sweet it was when they surrendered to Christ and had sweet peace and forgiveness, the assurance will come anew.

Some are here tonight who have lost their joy. Some time you have doubted about it. May I tell you what you need? You say, "I am going to start attending church, going to start tithing, going to start giving my testimony, going to get in a Sunday School class, or I will go to teaching." I know, but wait. You need God to clean you up inside. David prayed in the Fifty-First Psalm—do you remember it? He said, "O God, against thee and thee only have I sinned. Lord, take not thy Holy Spirit from me and cast me not away from Thy presence. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Thou desirest not sacrifice, else would I give it." The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit. "A broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou will not despise." And David said, "O God, renew a right spirit within me." God wants to give you a clean heart. That is what God wants. And tonight everybody here needs to say, "O God, make my heart clean." You say, "I wish God would help me live better." Brother R—, haven't you often thought,, "I wish I could live a better life"? Haven't you? Sure. But what God is after is not so much the outward life. God wants you to get something inside that will shine out anyway. You say, "I wish I could make that window so the light would come out." But you must have the light to have it shining. You need to get it right inside. You have to get the dynamo working inside.

I may drive my car into a filling station and say, "I believe I need more air in these tires." I find the air does not raise it up. What is the matter? You haven't line trouble, but the compression tank is low. Start the engine pumping. God, give us plenty of compression back in the tank and we will get air in the line! In other words, get compression in the heart, a cleaning up in the heart.

I know why you people don't say "Amen" when I preach. You don't have it in your heart. You don't have enough praise. When

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

Pews Bought For New Building

With hearty and unanimous agreement, the Fundamentalist Baptist Church, Dallas, agreed last Wednesday night in the selection of pews to put in the auditorium of the new church building. They will be standard church pews, made in Texas by a regular church furniture manufacturer. They will be of high grade pine construction which is cheaper than oak, but made like high grade oak pews, and beautifully finished. They are comfortable to sit in, pleasing to the eye, and substantial enough to last many, many years.

For seventy-one pews the price was $800.00. That will not completely fill our auditorium, but will do for the time being, we think. The pews are to be delivered and installed by Friday, December 8th. It is hoped to have our opening in the new building, with it completely finished December 10th. We want every seat paid for in cash by that time, and we believe we can do it.

A number of those present indicated their willingness to buy a pew.

"Bitter Words and Wicked Hearts"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

you talk to sinners, you have to force it, don't you? You ought to be bubbling over until you can't contain it, you are bound to tell it. Listen, some of you cold Christians ought to come tonight and say, "Oh, Lord, work me over. Make me the kind of tree that can't help bearing fruit. Make me the kind of tree that *can* bear good fruit." What we need is our hearts made right. May God clean our hearts! God give us fresh hearts. May God make us over in our hearts. We need to be fixed inside.

Now the third point. I want you to get this.

Do you have any trouble with your mouth? So do I. I wonder how many have trouble about talking? Isn't that surprising? Isn't that strange? You don't look like you would. You talk fine and you look pretty and you sing so sweetly. You have nice smiles! No one would ever think you would say anything bad. No one would think you would ever wrong anybody. No one would think you would speak sharply at home. Isn't it strange that we have trouble with our mouths? Do you know what your real trouble is? Not with your mouth. You work on your mouth, but that is not what you need work on. *It is your heart that needs fixing!*

Here is somebody who works along with a bad crowd. He gets mad, hurts himself some way, and he curses. He says, "Boy, I must quit that! What if my wife were to hear me curse?" But do you know what needs fixing? You need your heart fixed, for the Scripture says, "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." That is the reason Jesus said here about this matter, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things."

I will tell you why you curse. You are a snake in the heart, that is why you have a snake's language. Oh, sometimes my heart is so sick about Christians and the way they talk.

May I tell you something? My people, how people do need comfort. There is so much bitterness, there is so much temptation, there is so much criticism, how people need comfort and kindness! I need it myself. Couldn't you get off and think up something nice to say about people? We do not love people as we ought.

I am always getting funny letters, and every now and then these girls take me to task for spending so much time answering silly questions and writing long letters to "Church of Christ" people and other people who ask every kind of question. But a woman wrote me the other day and said, "Brother Rice, what is charity?" She asked another question: "Do you think it is all right to have meeting at night?" Does that sound foolish? "What is charity," she said. "I read about it in the Bible but I don't know what it is." I wrote back to say that it is a love that God puts in the heart for a Christian brother. You know I don't have to worry so much trying to get you to say nice things if your heart is filled with nice things. If you have enough gratitude in your heart, you will have some praises. We need our hearts made right. I wish I could get you to go win souls, but you have to have a heart to do it. If you had enough compassion in your heart, you would go tomorrow night to Parkland Hospital and give out tracts. You would if your heart was burning for those people.

A man at Woodland wants someone to come talk to him. He has T. B. A woman called me yesterday about him. This man is a Seventh Day Adventist. He got hold of copies of my paper with an article on law and grace and he is so burdened and upset. He wants to talk to someone about it. He wants to be able to come to church, too. Listen. There is so much to do. Mrs. McKinney wants somebody to go to the hospital and teach her the Sunday School lesson. There ought to be something in you that is burning to get out like it was with Jeremiah when he said, "I will speak no more in the name of the Lord," but there is a fire in his bones and he could not contain it. He had to speak. Jeremiah was trying to quit the ministry but he couldn't quit it. Jeremiah said, "Oh, that my head were a fountain of water that I might weep over the slain of the daughters of my people." Our trouble is that we have to squeeze awful hard to squeeze out one tear for sinners. Jeremiah wept out his soul until he had no more tears. What we need is for God to work on our hearts and our mouths can be right.

I started to say about comfort — it is so sweet when there are burdens. It is a strange thing, but nobody ever thinks I need any spiritual help. People come to me and say, "Pray with me about this." Or they call me over the phone and say, "Pray about this." They write in letters asking prayers. They meet me on the sidewalk and say, "Pray with me about this," and I do, and I will, but God knows I need prayers, too. Don't you think I need any praying, too? You say, "Brother Rice, I have a heavy burden; I am having a hard pull. I want you to join with me and ask God to hold me up." Don't you think I need any holding up, too? I am not speaking for myself. I am using myself only for an example. This poor, tired, sick, over-burdened world needs people to go around giving some comfort, some joy; needs some one overflowing to make other people happy.

Nobody ever asks me if I am a Christian. I am always asking other people. No one ever asks me if I am saved. I ask, "Are you letting your light shine? Are you reading your Bible? How are you getting along with the Lord?" No one asks me if God is good to me and asks if I am getting along all right with the Lord. Do you think I am an angel from Heaven? Do you think I am not made out of the same dirt you are? Don't you think I need anybody to help me along?

I think of the time when I started in to try to win a twelve-year-old boy to Christ in a barber shop here in Dallas. I said, "Son, where do you go to church, and do you go to Sunday School?"

He said, "Yes, I go to Sunday School." But his dear mother who was sitting there said, "Friend, let me tell you that just being a member of a church isn't all you need. Just going to church isn't enough."

I said, "No, that's right.' But she didnt give me a chance to say more.

She said, "Listen, what people really need is to be born again and have their hearts made right. There is something real about this business. Going to church is not enough."

I said, "No, that's right." But she didn't give me a chance to say

She said, "I know there is something to this business of being a Christian."

I sat there, and my heart was like a desert that just took in the rain, my heart blossomed as she talked on. We came back through the desert from California and I was surprised to see how green everything was. Everything was a bright green. They said they had had more rain out there in ten days than in the past twenty-eight years. Half a mile of road was washed away in places. The desert was blossoming. That is the way my heart was. It just drank it in as that woman talked to me about the Lord.

She said, "Mister, I was sick and about to die. The doctor gave me up. He had a consultation and called in other doctors. They said to me, 'Lady, we have done all we can do.' I said, 'You've done all you can do?' 'Yes.' 'Then I will call another doctor.' They said, 'There is no use. We have already called five of the best.' 'But the best one you haven't called yet. I am going to call Him. If you can't get me up, God can. I am going to call Him. I want to live for my children. You can go on away. You needn't leave me any medicine.'"

And she said she turned her face to the wall. She said she was so weak that she couldn't pray much, but she asked God, "Lord, let me live today! Lord, keep me alive today. I am too sick to pray, but just keep me alive today." And then the next day she prayed, "Lord, you kept me alive yesterday, now keep me alive today."

She told how she didn't feel like agonizing in prayer; she was too sick. But it wasn't long until she began to feel better, then she prayed, "Lord, now get me well."

She said to me, "I want you to know God answers prayer. This is real."

Oh, I have thought about that a thousand times. Oh, my heart is hungry to hear people like that, who have really talked with the Lord, and know what it is all about. You don't have praises like that because your heart is not running over with it inside. "Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

Sometimes people here hold their hands for prayer and nobody goes and talks to them, and if you do, you have to force yourself to do it. And it is because you are not running over inside with the love of God. I tell you, I would like to be like the old colored man on the dock at Memphis, Tennessee. Down the Mississippi River there came a steam boat, and as the ship whistled, the old negro always ran to the dock, and as it passed, that big side-wheeler boat, he cried out, "Dar he goes! Dar he goes! Look at the captain on the bridge!" When the boat had passed, the old fellow would wipe his eyes and say to somebody, "I jist loves to pint him out!"

The story is that this darkey was in a little bit of a row boat in the muddy waters of the Mississippi. He didn't know how to swim. So one day a larger ship came too close to his rowboat and it turned over, throwing him down in the muddy waters. The captain of the larger boat jumped off his ship and pulled the old darkey to shore and saved his life. And this old fellow couldn't forget him. He said, "I jist loves to pint him out!"

You had better get fixed up inside so the fire is burning and so you will have something to talk about. Then you can talk for Jesus. You surely can.

I tell you, you ought to get to where you can say "Amen." You had better practice up on gratitude in your heart and get the fire burning inside, and you will have something to say "Amen" about. You never say "Hallelujah!" do you? You never have any Hallelujahs in your heart, that is the reason you don't have them in your mouth.

Right now you haven't old time manifestations of the Spirit. Well, you need something to be manifested. You need something inside. You won't have to show it, it will show itself. You ought to pray, "Oh, God, give me the kind of heart that will make me talk for You, the kind that won't listen to criticism."

Are you critical? Do you listen to talk about people? You garbage collectors! God help you! A good woman out in California—the Lord really got hold of her. She got up one night and gave a testimony. She said, "I have had a critical spirit. I listened to gossip. The devil made a garbage pail out of my ears. I had them out listening all the time. I am going to look after my heart." That is a pretty good idea. You had better make up your mind and get your heart right, and ask God to give you a distaste for that kind of garbage. If you are the kind that always listens to gossip and bad talk you had better get your heart fixed, ask God to fix you up and make your heart pure and clean inside, "For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

If you have trouble about cursing, your real trouble is not with the mouth, it is deeper than that. If you have trouble about idle chatter — chatter, chatter, chatter — you have an idle heart. You have no burden. Your heart is not filled with the Scriptures, it is not warmed up inside. Oh, God, revive our hearts! Oh, the heart is where we need it!

Another word. You are going to come to judgment you know. The Lord will judge you very largely by the way you talk. God is going to bring you up and put you on the witness stand about every idle word you ever said. He just means if it wasn't any good, if it didn't bless anybody, then you had better be careful about your talk!

The Lord spoke to me not very long ago. I had been telling a story about a wonderful revival. I remember a certain woman, and I had a way of saying, "I am satisfied she wasn't as wide as she was tall." It has always been a funny thing about how that fat woman began to shout. And just as I was telling that, I stepped off of a chair and lost my balance and everybody laughed at me. I said, "All right, Lord, I will quit making a joke out of that point in the sermon." I think God wants preachers to be on fire and in earnest. I think there are times when humor has a point and purpose to it, being used with a lesson. But God will bring you to judgment for words that have no good purpose especially, words that edify nobody, that win nobody, that comfort nobody. They are wood, hay, and stubble, and will be burned up at the judgment seat of Christ. Oh, my friends, God is going to bring you to judgment for the way you talk! He will judge you by your talk!

"Well, Brother Rice," you say. "I pay my debts." I know that. This is not what I am talking about. God says you will be justified by your words or by your words you will be condemned. You say you are out and out for Jesus. Wait a minute! By the way you talk — are you a Christian? Does everybody find out you are a Christian by the way you talk? Do you have the mind of Christ as is pictured in your talk. Oh, the tender voice of Jesus! Do you talk like Jesus? If not, you had better watch your step.

I have talked long enough. Christians, let's come back tonight and say, "Oh, Lord, purify my heart!" You are always wanting the fruit but you need to get the tree fixed up and you will bear plenty of fruit.

If you are a lost sinner tonight, say, "Oh, Lord, tonight change my heart." He will.

"How shall I have it done, Brother Rice?" you say. This is the way. Come and trust Jesus Christ who knows all about you and He can and will change your heart. Will you give Him a chance to do it tonight? Will you trust Christ to save you and make your heart right? We are going to pray. How many will say, "Tonight, Brother Rice, I want God to revive my heart." You want to live a different life and bear more fruit. But you will have to start deeper than that. Why don't you say, "I want God to revive my heart and put enough gratitude in my heart that I will have to praise Him." Then I would not have to coax a testimony out of you every Wednesday night. Then we would not have to beg you to come to the choir. Nobody would have to beg you to go out and win souls. You would have such compassion that you would have to go and talk to lost people. How many Christians here will say, "Oh, God, revive my heart?" He will.

PRAYER: Our Heavenly Father, do bless tonight. Revive our hearts. Out of the abundance of our heart may we bring forth good things; may we have a heart that is pleasing to Thee. Oh, Lord, make us soul winners, gentle in our talk because we are gentle in heart. Lord, let us watch our words. Let us remember that a soft answer turns away wrath. Take away bitterness, selfishness, and suspicion and give us tender hearts; gentle, loving hearts. Make us clean in heart. Amen.

(Many came for a rededication of heart and a fresh cleansing.)

Youth's Revival

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

theirs. We expect great blessing at this time.

Sunday night at 7:30 the message will be *War Is Hell!*

Monday night the message will be *The Terror of the Lord.* This message is very important, and we urge our Dallas friends to be present at this service.

Dr. Wells will conduct a young people's clinic after the evening services each night, at which time we would have a question hour, a discussion of young people's problems, prayer meeting, etc.

We beg Dallas friends, in Jesus' name, to lay aside other things and attend these eight days of services. Above all, be much in prayer for this revival, that sinners may be saved, and young people rededicated to the Lord. REMEMBER THE DATE, NOVEMBER 12-19.

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